When Should Researchers Provide Clinical Care to Subjects?

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The Research Question

• Little is known about the relationship in children between pulmonary hypertension and malaria infection.

 There is some evidence/reason to believe that....

Study Value

The hypothesis/goal of the study is...

 Evaluating the relationship between pulmonary hypertension and malaria infection in children could be important because..

Population

 There are not a sufficient number of children with malaria to conduct the study in the U.S.

 Hence, NIH investigators propose to conduct the study in Africa, building on an existing collaborative relationship with researchers there.

Communities

 The investigators plan to recruit N? children ages 1-14 who have severe malaria and healthy controls.

 Children will be recruited from a major pediatric malaria referral center as well as several villages.

Study Procedures

- At baseline, children will undergo echocardiogram and blood testing to evaluate....
- The infected children will then undergo antimalarial treatment and have repeat measures.

The Question

- The investigators expect that their research tests will identify various conditions (e.g. sickle cell) and health needs in their subjects.
- They also expect to identify other conditions and health needs in the course of interacting with subjects.

Insufficiency of Referral

 In some instances, the local health system may be able to handle the concerns identified.

 However, the investigators expect to identify numerous conditions that the local health system is unable to address.

Consultation

 The investigators wonder to what extent they are obliged to provide medical care for these conditions.

 They call a bioethics consultation to discuss this question.